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## COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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### **1999 Virginia Mine Safety Awards Winners**

- Virginia Coal Mine Safety Board, DMME Announce Winners  
Of Annual Mine Safety Awards -

**Big Stone Gap, VA-** Seven southwest Virginia coal mines and 25 mine employees have been recognized for significant mine safety achievements by the Virginia Coal Mine Safety Board and the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME). The mines received awards for working a specified minimum number of employee hours and achieving zero lost-time accidents during 1999. Individual mine employees were recognized for having worked over either a 20-year or 10-year period without a lost-time accident.

“The 1999 Virginia Mine Safety Awards recognize the tens of thousands of hours devoted to safe mining practices by these companies and their employees,” said DMME Division of Mines Chief, Frank Linkous. “It takes the combined commitment and effort of mine management and employees working as a team to achieve an entire year of operation without a lost-time accident. We commend these companies for adopting and demonstrating a continuous commitment to work place safety, and we are especially pleased to have the opportunity this year to recognize 25 miners for their individual commitment to mine safety,” said Linkous.

Awards are given each year to large and small underground and surface mines and associated mine facilities such as coal preparation plants and other support operations. Applicants must have a Virginia Mine Index Number and/or federal Mine Safety and Health Administration I.D. number, have operated a minimum of 180 days with no lost-time accidents and met the minimum number of

production employee hours worked. If no applicants in a given category meet these criteria, the award will be presented to the facility having the lowest non-fatal days lost injury rate for the calendar year.

DMME Division of Mines staff made on-site presentations of the awards to the winners over the last several months. A listing of the winners of the 1999 awards follows.

**Small Surface:** Dominion Coal Corporation Central Shop, which worked 12,920.50 hours without a lost-time accident.

**Large Surface:** Jewell Smokeless Coal Corporation, Coronet Jewell Preparation Plant No. 2, which worked 81,321.50 hours without a lost-time accident.

**Honorable Mention:** Cumberland River Coal Company, Pardee Preparation/Loadout

**Small Underground:** Dominion Coal Corporation, No. 36 Mine, which worked 53,667 hours without a lost-time accident.

*Honorable Mentions:*

Dominion Coal Corporation, No. 34 Mine

Dominion Coal Corporation, No. 7 and No. 36B Mines

Dominion Coal Corporation, No. 17 Mine

### **Individual Award Categories**

#### **20 Years PLUS without a lost time accident:**

- Willard Hess, Jewell Smokeless Coal Corporation, Heavy Equipment Superintendent, 31 years, 11 months
- John Street, Jewell Smokeless Coal Corporation, Plant Operator, 28 years, 6 months
- Walter D. Smith, Jewell Smokeless Coal Corporation, Electrician, 28 years, 3 months
- James Brewster, Jewell Smokeless Coal Corporation, Equipment Operator, 24 years, 1 month
- Roger Osborne, Knox Creek Coal Corporation, Preparation Plant Foreman, 23 years, 11 months
- Stanley Stacy, Knox Creek Coal Corporation, Electrician-Mechanic-Welder, 21 years, 7 months
- Darrell Taylor, Knox Creek Coal Corporation, Heavy Equipment Operator, 20 years, 8 months
- Gary Ratliff, Dominion Coal Corporation, Maintenance Foreman, 20 years, 6 months
- Lawrence McClanahan, Knox Creek Coal Corporation, Loadout Operator, 28 years, 4 months
- Mike Scott, Knox Creek Coal Corporation, Preparation Plant Superintendent, 26 years, 10 months
- Norman Eugene Baker, Knox Creek Coal Corporation, Heavy Equipment Operator, 26 years, 9 months
- Clarence Cantrell, Knox Creek Coal Corporation, Heavy Equipment Operator, 25 years, 6 months
- Jerry McCracken, Knox Creek Coal Corporation, Control Room Operator, 23 years, 4 months
- Eddie Griffith, Knox Creek Coal Corporation, Heavy Equipment Mechanic, 22 years, 11 months
- Gary Gearhart, Knox Creek Coal Corporation, Dozer Operator, 22 years, 7 months
- Jeff Jones, Knox Creek Coal Corporation, Loadout Operator, 23 years, 5 months
- David Newberry, Knox Creek Coal Corporation, Mechanic, 22 years, 11 months

**Ten years PLUS without a lost time accident:**

- Troy Compton, Jr., Dominion Coal Corporation, Mechanic, 18 years, 4 months
- Henry McKemy, Jewell Smokeless Coal Corporation, Equipment Operator, 18 years
- Gary Taylor, Dominion Coal Corporation, Section Foreman, 15 years, 9 months
- William "Bill" Hurley, Knox Creek Coal Corporation, Heavy Equipment Operator, 14 years, 7 months
- Joe Hess, Dominion Coal Corporation, Section Foreman, 12 years, 10 months
- Fred Greene, Knox Creek Coal Corporation, Lab Manager, 19 years, 6 months
- Edwin Jackson, Knox Creek Coal Corporation, Mechanic-Welder, 19 years, 3 months
- Michael S. Dixon, Knox Creek Coal Corporation, Electrician, 18 years, 4 months

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